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T H E  
T R I A L  
O F

ISAAC PRESCOTT, Esq.

*A Captain in the ROYAL NAVY,*

Late Commander of his Majesty's Ship the SEAFORD.

FOR WANTON, TYRANNICAL, UNPROVOKED, AND  
SAVAGE CRUELTY, TOWARDS

JANE PRESCOTT, his Wife,

Daughter of the Reverend Mr. Walter, Chaplain of his  
Majesty's Dock-Yard, at Portsmouth, who gave with  
her 2000 l. as a Marriage Portion.

Setting forth the Whole of the Evidence upon that  
REMARKABLE TRIAL,

O IN THE  
Consistory Court at Doctors Commons.

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[ It appears, by this Trial, that Captain Prescott is so very ingenious in the art of tormenting, and has contrived so many new and extraordinary modes of punishment for a woman, that he appears fully qualified to preside at a Spanish inquisition. Mrs. Browning, in her day, was thought an adept in every species of cruelty, but our hero has refined upon her principles; and disdaining to inflict common punishments, has invented a system of his own. His unparalleled transactions are equally numerous and astonishing.]

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Entered at Stationers Hall.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for G. LISTER, No. 46, Old Bailey.

M DCC LXXXVI.

# BURN'S JUSTICE,

Brought down to the End of the Year 1785.

*This Day is published, Price Four Shillings and Sixpence,*

Handsomely printed in One Volume Octavo,

## AN APPENDIX to the Fourteenth

Edition of *Burn's Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer*; containing the Acts of Parliament and adjudged Cases for the last six Years, to the 25th of George the Third inclusive; bringing the Fourteenth Edition down to the present Time, and rendering it much more complete than the Fifteenth, which is now sold for One Pound Eight Shillings, without the Addition of the Acts which passed in the 25th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, and the Adjudications to the End of 1785.

BY SOMERVILLE DINGLEY, ESQ.

London: Printed for the Author, and sold by G. LISTER, No. 46, Old Bailey; and may be had of all other Booksellers in Town and Country.

N. B. The *Continuation of the Appendix to Burn's Justice*, which contains the Statutes and adjudged Cases from 1784, to the End of the Year 1785, may be had separately, price 2s. to accommodate those Persons who have purchased the former Editions of the Appendix to Burn's Justice.

\*\*\* The proprietors of *Burn's Justice*, instead of furnishing an Appendix, as I have done, have hitherto obliged those who require the Aid of such a performance, to purchase the whole over again.

☞ This Appendix is printed on the same Paper, &c. as *Burn's Justice*, and may be considered as the Fifth Volume of that Work,

*Rec. June 20, 1784*



THE  
**T R I A L**  
 OF  
**ISAAC PRESCOTT, Esq.**

**L I B E L.**

**T**HE libel sets forth, that Isaac Prescott, Esq; on the 5th of January 1779, (being then a bachelor, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards) was married to Jane Walter, also of the age of twenty-one years, daughter of the Reverend Richard Walter, chaplain of his majesty's Dock-Yard at Portsmouth, after which they consummated their

marriage by carnal copulation, and lived and cohabited together at several places.

That the said Isaac Prescott is a person of a morose, surly, tyrannical, cruel, savage, and wicked temper, and disposition, and, during all the time he cohabited with his said wife, his behaviour to her has been one continued scene of unprovoked and unabated wanton cruelty, and he has constantly endeavoured, by every means in his power, to make her completely wretched. That the said Reverend Richard Walter, too much relying on the honour and generosity of the said Isaac Prescott, gave him 2000*l.* as a marriage portion with his said daughter, without insisting on or having any settlement. That the said Jane Prescott is a person of a very modest carriage and behaviour, and of a very meek, mild, affable, obliging, tractable, submissive, and obedient temper, and behaved to her said husband, with the greatest tenderness, submission, and duty; and concealed his unprovoked cruelties towards her, until she was no longer able to bear the same.

That soon after their marriage, till Mrs. Prescott left the house for the pre-

preservation of her life, he constantly treated her in the most cruel manner, by damning and blasting her, calling her bitch, whore, and many other opprobrious names, and making use of such language to her, as only the vilest of men use to the most abandoned women, and by spitting in her face, and down her back, and endeavouring to spit in her mouth, by depriving her of rest and food, and throwing wine, punch, beer, and other liquors in her face; by terrifying her with fire arms, and by striking her many violent and dangerous blows, with his fist and cane, on her head, face, neck, breast, and other parts of the body; and kicking her so as to endanger her life.

That, on the 11th of January, only six days after their marriage, without any cause whatever, except her being dressed neat and clean, to go down to dinner, he tore her cap from her head, and gave her a blow on the ear, with his clinched fist, which knocked her down, and then took her up in his arms, and threw her with great violence out of the room; thereby greatly hurting and bruising her; that he also treated her with equal cruelty on the 18th of the same month.

That,



That soon after, he confined her in a room with him, and gave her several blows with his doubled fist; swearing, at the same time, that, if she cryed loud enough to be heard, he would use her ten times worse; he then compelled her to kneel in a distant part of the room, for upwards of two hours, most solemnly swearing that if she changed her posture, or spoke to him, he would quit the house, and never see her more. That he often obliged her to kneel by his bed-side for two hours at a time, before he would permit her to go into bed. That, when in bed, he struck her many dangerous blows on her head, face, breast, and other places, with his doubled fist, and violently pulled her about the bed, until her cap fell off, and her hair flowed over her shoulders.

That on or about the 3d of June 1779, Mrs. Prescott, being then with child, and very weak and ill from his bad treatment, went into the garden to eat fruit, when she was followed by her husband, who seeing her pick some strawberries, ordered her to desist, which she did; and, afterwards, not thinking herself followed by Captain Prescott, she pulled some cherries; when he pelted her with dry dirt

dirt and small stones, till her gown and linen were covered with lumps of earth. That he took the cherries from her with great violence, and, with a handful of mould, crammed them altogether into her mouth, and afterwards struck her a violent blow on the face with his doubled fist, and greatly bruised her.

That Captain Prescott took his wife on board his majesty's ship the Seaford, then lying at Portsmouth, which he commanded; and whilst she was there, she having pleated instead of having gathered some black stocks, which she was making for him, he beat and bruised her most cruelly, pulled her petticoats over her face, before his natural daughter Georgiana Prescott, a child of about eleven years of age, and then rung his bell that his servant might come and look at her, and kept her in that posture till the instant of the man's coming into the cabbin.

That, when she was four months gone with child, he took a year's collection of Magazines, bound into a volume, and with it gave her a dangerous blow on the lower part of her belly, and thereby greatly endangered her life. That he  
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afterwards devised new methods of plaguing and hurting her, by rubbing her face upwards with great force, which put her to great pain and anguish. That, soon after she was delivered of a dead child, and in a dangerous state, he gave her a most violent and dangerous blow on the head, and greatly hurt her. That, about the 17th of November, the very day after his return from Newfoundland, he beat her most cruelly, and made her get out of bed, and stand shivering for two hours (in her shift) on a marble hearth.

That about the beginning of March, 1781, her strength and spirits being exhausted by oppression, grief, and distress, she laid herself down on a box, which stood on the chair next her, which offended the captain so much, that he gave her a violent blow with his cane on her elbow, the pain of which threw her into fits; from which she soon after recovered; that the captain then fell on his knees, and with clasped hands and uplifted eyes, besought God to shower his eternal damnation on Mrs. Prescott.

That at another time, seeing she had begun to write a letter to her father,  
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complaining of her husband's treatment, with great rage and anger he bit her face, and said, as he had often done before, that if he was not afraid of being over-heard, by the neighbours, he would use her ten times worse, but that, when he returned from his voyage, he intended living in the country; and then he would tie her to the bed-post, and horse-whip her as long as he had strength to do it.

That, on the 15th or 16th of February, she being then with child, he kicked her with great violence in the belly, and gave her a dreadful blow on the knee with his foot.

That he spit in her face, gave her a violent box on the ear, and a dreadful stroke on the small of her back with his foot, and knocked her down on the floor, and rendered her unable to move for a considerable time.

That on or about the 26th of February, 1781, the captain, on taking leave of his wife, imprecated the bitterest curses on his own head, if he did not on his return to England, make her the most unhappy of women, and vowed to execute every cruel project for that purpose.

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That on or about the 26th of March, 1782, after an absence of about thirteen months, the captain returned, and renewed his inhuman treatment to his wife, kicking and striking her, blacking her face with the tongs, and using the most indecent and immodest language to her, and in her hearing.

That, on or about the 14th of July, he gave her several violent blows on her head and face, with his doubled fist, for only saying she was sleepy.

That on or about the month of October, 1782, she having dressed herself neatly, but plainly, he, with a sharp garden knife in his hand, threatened to cut her cloaths off her back, and actually began cutting her cloaths with the said garden knife.

That in the evening of the 28th of October, he exercised variety of cruelties upon her, upon which she screamed out, and rang the bell; and a servant maid then appearing, he shut her out, and locked the door; he then laughed at her, spit in her face, and violently rubbed her mouth, chin, and nose upwards; and then he pulled her petticoats over her head,

head, and compelled her to sit with them so for some time; till, at length, he being himself frightened at the alarming state to which he had reduced her, assisted her to bed, undressing her himself, to prevent the servants seeing the weak helpless state in which she then was; and she lay all that night in such agonies, that it was every minute expected she would miscarry, and the next morning she was hardly able to move.

That, apprehending herself to be in great danger, and for the preservation of her life, she did, on or about the 6th of November, 1782, quit her husband's house, and put herself under the care and protection of her father.

That, besides the several species of cruelty already mentioned, the said Captain Prescott, while he and his wife were at Portsmouth, refused to allow her to breakfast, and he kicked his servant, John Silk, for catching him giving her some breakfast; and swore, that if ever he caught him doing the like again, he would kick him to hell. That Mrs. Prescott was often obliged to get meals by stealth. That, in general, her husband hardly allowed her victuals enough to support



nature, and she was often very weak and faint for want of nourishment.

That, without any cause or provocation, Captain Prescott violently dragged his wife down stairs by her heels, and with great rage and force, dashed her head against the stairs, and greatly hurt and bruised her.

That afterwards, he lock'd his wife out of every room in his house at Teddington, except the garrets, which he said were good enough for her, and would not suffer her to eat with him ; and she was, for several days, forced to eat her meals upon the garret landing-place.

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IN THE  
Consistory COURT at Doctors Commons,

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11th August, 1783.

DEPOSITIONS.

*The Deposition of Ann Lucas.*

**A**NN LUCAS, of Portsea, in the county of Southampton, spinster, aged thirty-one years, a witness produced and sworn; deposes and says, she has known the articulate Jane Prescott, the producent in this cause, and also the articulate Isaac Prescott, her husband, the other party in this cause, for several years past, and was well acquainted with them respectively, long before their marriage; that the said Jane Prescott (whose maiden-name was Walter) is the daughter of the Reverend Richard Walter, clerk, chaplain of his majesty's Dock-Yard, at Portf-

Portsmouth, by Jane Walter his wife, with both of whom the deponent also hath been acquainted many years: and the said Jane Prescott hath, to her knowledge, been very virtuously educated, and brought up; and was and is a person whom the deponent always thought and does think and esteem, from every thing she ever saw of her, to be of a very mild, affable, obliging, and condescending temper, and disposition; and always behaved to the said Isaac Prescott, with the utmost respect, submission, and tenderness. That the said Isaac Prescott, and Jane Prescott, were married in the month of January 1779, and soon after lived and resided together at lodgings, which they hired at the house of a Mrs. Moore, on Portsmouth Common, where they lodged about a month or five weeks at that time. That they came a second time to lodge at the house of the said Mrs. Moore, about the beginning of July, in the said year 1779; and then also resided there about five weeks, and until the said Isaac Prescott sailed for Quebec on board his majesty's ship, Seaford; and, during the said two periods, the deponent frequently visited, and was very much in company with the said Jane Prescott, and Isaac Prescott, and was very frequently an eye-



eye-witness of the said Isaac Prescott's flying into the most violent passions at the said Jane Prescott, his wife, without the least cause or provocation whatever, that the deponent saw or that he assigned; and at such times used to curse and swear at the said Jane Prescott, in the most violent horrid manner the deponent ever heard, and treated the said Jane Prescott with the most violent and abusive language; and the said Jane Prescott, on such occasions, was always so far from provoking him thereto, that she used to speak and behave to him in the most respectful submissive manner possible, and use every expedient she could think of, to endeavour to pacify him, but generally without effect; and from what the deponent hath seen of the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, she looks upon and esteems him to be a man of the most surly, morose, and passionate temper and disposition, of any one she ever knew or was in company with.

She further saith, that she well remembers the first time that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott so lodged at Mr. Moore's, that the said Jane Prescott was ill and confined for some days with a bilious complaint. That upon her recovery there-

therefrom, and the first day of her coming down stairs, the deponent went and dined in company with her, and the said Isaac Prescott, and a daughter of the said Isaac Prescott, then about nine or ten years old. That on such occasion the said Isaac Prescott appeared all dinner time in a very fullen and surly temper, and scarcely spoke or eat any thing; but very soon after dinner, he suddenly flew out into a most violent passion, and began to curse and swear at the said Jane Prescott, in the most horrid manner, without the least cause or provocation that the deponent saw or heard him assign, and used the most violent and abusive language, and called the said Jane Prescott by many vile, opprobrious, and abusive names, and went up to her, and several times thrust his clenched fist in her face, in a threatening manner as if going to strike her. That the said Jane Prescott was at that time extremely weak through her late illness; and whilst the said Isaac Prescott was so abusing, swearing and holding his clenched fist at the said Jane Prescott, the deponent saw her on the floor; but whether she had fallen from any blow or push given her by the said Isaac Prescott, or whether she slipped down from her weakness and the terror the said Isaac Prescott's

Prescott's violent behaviour had put her into, the deponent cannot take upon her to say; for she herself was so terrified, that she had retired to the further part of the room, and could not take the most particular notice, and was soon after obliged to go out into the garden, for fear of fainting. That after the deponent had been in the garden some little time, she went up into the said Jane Prescott's bed chamber, and there found her lying down on the bed, in a very weak, low state, and in great terror and agitation of mind, from the said Isaac Prescott's violent behaviour; and the deponent then took her leave, and left her.

The deponent also saith, that during the second time the said Isaac and Jane Prescott so lodged at Mrs. Moore's, at Portsmouth, in the month of July and August 1779, she several times visited them, and saw several instances of the said Isaac Prescott's violent and abusive behaviour to the said Jane Prescott, altogether without cause or provocation, so far as the deponent did or could see or observe. That the said Isaac Prescott's ship, the Seaford, was then under sailing orders for Quebec, and the deponent well remembers calling one morning in parti-

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cular on the said Jane Prescott, when she found her in great apparent agony and distress; and the said Jane Prescott, then told the deponent that the said Isaac Prescott had been treating her very ill, that he had discharged their lodgings at Mrs. Moore's, and was gone on board his ship, and when he left her, vowed he would never see her more; and the deponent then advising her to try to soften and pacify him by a letter, she agreed thereto. That the deponent called on the said Jane Prescott again the same afternoon, and whilst she was sitting with her in her bed-chamber, the said Isaac Prescott came to the room, and instantly, without any provocation whatever, flew into a most violent passion, and began to curse and swear in a most horrid manner, called the said Jane Prescott by many opprobrious names, and treated her with the most scurrilous and abusive language, and also went up to her and gave her such a push as to make her and the seat she sat on totter; but whether he actually pushed her down, she cannot positively say, though, to the best of her present recollection, she thinks he did. That the deponent was then so terrified at the said Isaac Prescott's violence, that she immediately afterwards quitted the house, leaving

leaving them together; and the said Isaac Prescott continuing in the most violent passion, and abusing the said Jane Prescott, who was at that time three or four months gone with child.

She further says, that she well remembers the said Isaac Prescott and Jane Prescott coming to lodge at Portsmouth Common, a third time, at the house of a Mrs. Phillips, in Frederic Street, which was, as she thinks, on or about the month of February or March, 1780, she having hired the lodgings for them: that whilst they so lodged there, the deponent saw and visited them there a few times, at which time the said Jane Prescott appeared to be in a very weak state of health, having lain-in shortly before; notwithstanding which, the deponent was never in their company without the said Isaac Prescott falling into the most violent passions, cursing and swearing at, and using the most abusive, violent, and indecent language to the said Jane Prescott, and calling her by the most opprobrious names; and the said Isaac Prescott's constant ill temper and behaviour, and abusive and improper language towards the said Jane Prescott, became so extremely disagreeable and offen-

five to the deponent, that she, on that account solely, was obliged to discontinue her visits to the said Jane Prescott.

This deponent further says, that on all the occasions by her beforementioned, when she hath so seen the said Isaac Prescott in passions with and violently swearing at, and abusing the said Jane Prescott, she always behaved towards him in the most submissive manner possible, begging to know by what means she had inadvertently offended him, that she might avoid giving him any occasion of offence in future, but without such condescension and submission at any time producing the desired effect. That at times, when the said Isaac Prescott hath been cool, and not in any passion, he hath frequently declared to the deponent, he thought there was not a more amiable woman living than the said Jane Prescott his wife; and at such times used to lament to the deponent that by his behaviour, and the violence of his temper, he should have occasioned her so much uneasiness: and further she cannot depose.

ANNE LUCAS.



*The Deposition of Mary Ridge.*

MARY RIDGE, wife of Thomas Ridge, Esquire, of Kilmiston, in the county of Southampton, aged thirty-three years, a witness produced and sworn, says, that she hath known the articulate Jane Prescott, the producent in this cause, from her infancy, and hath also known the articulate Isaac Prescott, the husband, the other party in this cause, for about five or six years past, and before he married the said Jane Prescott: that she hath also been well acquainted with the Rev. Richard Walter, and Jane Walter his wife, the father and mother of the said Jane Prescott, whose maiden name was Walter, many years, and knows the said Jane Prescott hath been virtuously brought up, and always did and now does look upon and esteem the said Jane Prescott to be a person of a very mild, amiable, affable, and condescending temper and disposition, and has always borne the best of characters as far as the deponent ever heard: that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott were married in January 1779, as the deponent hath  
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always understood and believes; and from what the deponent hath ever since observed of the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, particularly since his marriage with the said Jane Prescott, she looks upon him to be a person of a very surly, morose, violent and passionate temper; and hath seen several instances of very violent and ill behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott towards the said Jane Prescott, as will be hereafter more particularly mentioned.

She further saith, that on a Sunday, in the latter end of May 1779, the said Isaac and Jane Prescott came on a visit to her and her husband, at their house at Limington, and staid with them till the Thursday following. That one afternoon, during the said time, but the particular day the deponent cannot now recollect, the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, being together in their bed-chamber, the deponent heard the said Jane Prescott scream out very much; whereupon the deponent going to, and knocking at the door, and asking what was the matter, the said Isaac Prescott bid her come in. That the deponent accordingly did so, and found the said Jane Prescott in tears, kneeling down, and putting some things into a portmanteau, and the said Isaac  
Prescott

Prescott apparently in a violent rage, and standing over her with a stick in his hand. That on the deponent's entering the room, and repeating her question, the said Isaac Prescott, in the most violent manner, replied, God damn her blood, a bitch, I'll bring her nose to the grindstone ; and soon after left the room, cursing and swearing in the most horrid manner, and calling the said Jane Prescott by many opprobrious names. That after he was gone, the said Jane Prescott told the deponent, the said Isaac Prescott had been beating her on her back and neck, with his stick; and she then shewed the deponent the back of her neck, on which there appeared very plainly the red marks, or bruises, as of violent strokes of a stick freshly inflicted. And the deponent also says, that on the next day, after the above circumstance, she was walking in the garden with Isaac and Jane Prescott, and a Mrs. Bouchier, Mrs. Prescott's sister, when the said Isaac and Jane Prescott left them, and went into a different walk. That soon after, the deponent heard the said Jane Prescott cry out; and, running towards them, as soon as she was got into the walk, she observed the said Isaac Prescott, with his cane in his hand, and his arm lifted up as if going  
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to strike the said Jane Prescott, and the said Jane Prescott with her hand lifted up as if to defend the blow from her head : that upon the deponent's running up, and asking the said Isaac Prescott what he was doing, he dropped his arm, without striking the said Jane Prescott, but began calling her names, and treating her with the most abusive language ; and, in particular, the deponent remembers his damning her for a bitch, and bidding her return to the back of the Point, from whence he took her, thereby alluding, as the deponent believes, to the back of the Point at Portsmouth, which is a place notoriously infamous for the resort of sailors, and the most abandoned of women. That they went towards the house, when the said Isaac Prescott observing the said Jane Prescott to whisper to the deponent, asked what she said ; and in a most peremptory and magisterial manner, ordered her up to her room. That the deponent told him she would come in a moment ; but he was not satisfied with that, and, in a violent passion, swore she should go instantly. That the said Jane Prescott thereupon begging of the deponent to intercede with the said Isaac Prescott to excuse her only until she had been to the necessary, as she had great occasion,

occasion, and which was what she had whispered the deponent about, he the said Isaac Prescott positively refused, and did not permit her to go; but drove her up stairs before him, holding and shaking his cane over her: that the deponent immediately went into the court-yard, before the house, where she heard the said Jane Prescott scream out violently, and she presently afterwards threw up the sash, and begged of the deponent to bring her a little vinegar, for that the said Isaac Prescott had struck her on the thumb, and bruised it violently. That the deponent accordingly carried up some vinegar, and on entering the room, found the said Jane Prescott, in great agony and distress, and in tears, and her thumb much swelled; but the said Isaac Prescott, then in the most surly, passionate manner, said damn her, she wants no vinegar, there's nothing the matter with her, or to that effect; but the said Jane Prescott's thumb, on the next day, when they left the deponent's house, was very black, and so bruised, as to be quite useless to her. That the said Jane Prescott then again begged of the deponent, to intercede with the said Isaac Prescott, to permit her to go down to the necessary, which she accordingly did, but the said Isaac Pres-

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cott again positively refused to permit her to go, saying God damn her, a bitch, she shall not stir an inch. That the deponent thereupon representing to him, that as she was young with child, as the fact was, that it might be of bad consequence to her, he nevertheless remained inflexible, swearing again she should not stir, let the consequence be what it would, or to that effect. That the deponent thereupon went down stairs, and the said Isaac and Jane Prescott soon followed, when the said Isaac Prescott was laughing, and appeared perfectly good-humoured, and called the said Jane Prescott by many tender endearing names, as if nothing had happened. That on the following morning, before breakfast, the deponent was in a dressing room, adjoining to the chamber of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, when she heard the said Isaac Prescott violently abuse, and swear at the said Jane Prescott; that he soon after came into the room to the deponent, when the deponent asking him if any thing was the matter with Mrs. Prescott, he replied, Oh! damn her, she is sick, she does nothing but spew: whereupon the deponent saying she would go in, and see if she could be of any service to her; he replied, Oh! no, damn her; let her alone;



alone; let her spew by herself, if she will; and then left the deponent. That the deponent then went into the said Mrs. Prescott's room, where she found her in tears, in the greatest distress, sitting with only her under-petticoat on, her cap off, and her hair quite dishevelled.

The deponent also says, that when the said Jane Prescott married the said Isaac Prescott, she appeared to be in a very good state of health; and from the contents of her letters to the deponent, since, she understands and believes her health to be very much impaired, occasioned, as she has every reason to suppose, by the ill-treatment she hath received from the said Isaac Prescott.

MARY RIDGE.

12th August, 1783.

*The Deposition of Richard Walter.*

The Rev. RICHARD WALTER, of Portsmouth, in the county of Southampton, clerk, aged 65 years, a witness produced and sworn. He deposes and says, he is the natural and lawful father of the articulate Jane Prescott, the producent in this cause, who, in the month of January 1779, being then a spinster of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, was, by the deponent, lawfully married to the articulate Isaac Prescott, the other party in this cause, in the parish church of Portsmouth, in the county of Southampton; that the deponent, with his own hand, wrote and entered the entry of the said marriage in the original register-book for marriages, kept in and for the said parish church of Portsmouth, for the said year 1779, and subscribed his name to such entry, and now the said original register book of marriages before him, and referring to the original entry of the marriage of the said Isaac Prescott, and the said

said Jane Prescott, formerly Walter, by him entered therein, and signed as aforesaid ; and having carefully examined and collated the copy or extract of the marriage contained in the said paper writing or exhibit, marked No. 1, with the said original entry, he finds the said copy to be and contain a true and authentic copy or extract of the said original entry ; and he is well assured, that Isaac Prescott and Jane Walter, mentioned in the said copy or extract, and the articulate Jane Prescott, formerly Walter, the producent, and Isaac Prescott her husband, the other party in this cause, were and are the same persons, and not divers.

The deponent further saith, that the said Isaac Prescott and Jane Prescott, immediately after the said marriage, resided at the deponent's house at Portsmouth, for a month or five weeks, and from thence went to London together ; that the deponent, on the marriage of his said daughter, gave the said Isaac Prescott, as a portion with his daughter, the sum of 2000 l. without having the same, or any part, settled upon her. That the deponent caused the said Jane Prescott to be educated in a very sober, pious, and virtuous manner ; and the deponent is convinced



vinced, that she was and is a person of a very meek, mild, affable, tractable, and obedient temper. That from what the deponent had always observed of the carriage and behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, previous to his marriage with the said Jane Prescott, he always looked upon and thought him a man of a courteous and affable disposition, and a very entertaining good companion; but as well from the observation he hath opportunity of making himself, as from every thing he hath heard respecting the conduct and behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, towards the said Jane Prescott, since his marriage with her, he hath every reason to believe him to be a man of a very violent temper and disposition.

The deponent also says, that several times immediately after the said marriage, as the deponent and his wife were sitting in their parlour, below stairs, and the said Isaac Prescott and Jane Prescott, were in their room up stairs, they have heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent, as if in a rage, and scolding; and the voice of the said Jane Prescott in a tone of plaintiveness, which began to give them some apprehension of ill usage from the said Isaac Prescott towards

towards his wife; and within about ten days after such marriage, the deponent's wife told him of an instance of violent ill treatment of the said Isaac Prescott towards the said Jane Prescott, which she had been a witness to; whereupon the deponent, on the day after receiving such information, after dinner, took occasion to mention a circumstance of a captain in the navy, who had been taken by the enemy, after having been obliged to throw his guns overboard in a storm; and to add that his having been obliged to throw his guns, was a lucky circumstance; and the said Isaac Prescott then asking why; the deponent replied, because the captain must otherwise have exposed himself as a rank coward; for that the deponent understood he had used to beat his wife: that the said Isaac Prescott then observing, that it might have been owing to the fault of the wife; the deponent replied, that no behaviour of a woman could possibly justify a man striking her, and that none but the rankest of cowards would do it, or to that effect: and so the conversation ended at that time; but in the afternoon, the said Jane Prescott sent for the deponent, and said her husband had desired her to ask him if, by his aforesaid conversation after dinner, he had meant to point  
to

to him ; to which the deponent replied to her, if he has ever beat you, I do mean to point to him ; if not, he has no right to make the application to himself : but as to any ill treatment the said Jane Prescott might have received from the said Isaac Prescott, in consequence of such aforesaid conversation, the deponent cannot speak, save from information.

To the several paper writings, marked No. 2, 3, 4, and 5, the deponent says, that he hath often seen the said Isaac Prescott subscribe his name to his writings ; and hath received letters from him, subscribed by him ; and having carefully viewed the said several paper writings, he believes the whole series and contents thereof, are all of the proper handwriting of the said Isaac Prescott, party in this cause.

He further says, that the said Jane Prescott quitted the house of the said Isaac Prescott her husband, on or about the 6th day of November last, and went to the deponent's sister, Mrs. Tunstal, at Brentford, where, as soon as the deponent was informed thereof, he went to, and received her under his protection. That the said Jane Prescott so quitted her



her husband's house, as the deponent believes, and as he has been informed, on account of the extreme and repeated ill usage she had received from the said Isaac Prescott; and apprehending herself and the child she was then pregnant with, to be in danger therefrom. That the said Jane Prescott, since she has so quitted her said husband's house, has never had any personal intercourse whatever with him, so far as the deponent believes; and further he cannot depose.

RICHARD WALTER.

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*The Deposition of Mary Moore.*

MARY MOORE, wife of John Moore, of Portsea, in the county of Southampton, aged about thirty-three years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that about the month of March 1779, as nearly as she can now recollect, the time the articulate Isaac Prescott, party in this cause, and Jane Prescott, the producent, came and took  
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lodgings at her house in Daniel's Row on Portsmouth Common, and staid at that time about nine or ten weeks, as she thinks, whereby she came first to know and be acquainted with them both. That they also came and lodged at the deponent's house a second time, and there staid some time; but at what time they so came to lodge at the deponent's house the second time, or how long in particular they lodged there, she cannot say; but well remembers, that when they left her house the second time, the said Isaac Prescott sailed for Quebec as commander of his majesty's ship the Seaford, and the said Jane Prescott went to London. That during the respective times the said Isaac and Jane Prescott so lodged with the deponent, they lived as husband and wife, and so were universally esteemed to be, and were so as the deponent verily believes: and from the observation the deponent had opportunity of making on the dispositions of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, she always looked upon her, and still does, to be a woman of a very mild, meek, affable, and agreeable temper; and the said Isaac Prescott to be a person extremely surly, morose, and passionate in his disposition.

She

She further says, that during the whole time they lodged at her house, there was not a day passed, without the said Isaac Prescott putting himself into the most violent passions with the said Jane Prescott, and curse and swear at her and treat her with the most abusive language, and call her by the most opprobrious names: and she has often heard him continue storming and raving in that manner till two or three o'clock in the morning. Then when she first saw the said Isaac Prescott behave in such a manner, she asked the said Jane Prescott if she should come up into their room when she heard him in such passions; to which she replied, no, she had better not, for fear he should be still more violent with her if any one interfered, or to that effect; but that she hoped he would, some time or other, treat her with more kindness. That accordingly the deponent did not go into the room when she hath heard the said Isaac Prescott so outrageous; but at such times, from the shrieks of the said Jane Prescott, the noise and confusion in the room, and the deponent's frequently afterwards finding the chairs and furniture thrown about, and sometimes broken, she verily believes, that at such times the said Isaac Prescott used to



beat the said Jane Prescott, drag her about, and otherwise ill use her, besides raving at and treating her with ill language. She also says, that soon after they came to lodge at her house, the said Jane Prescott was seized with so violent a bilious complaint, as to be confined to her bed, and her life was apprehended to be in danger: that one morning the deponent went up to see how she did, and found the said Isaac Prescott sitting by her bed-side, and he called her his dear Jenny, and appeared at first to be much affected with her situation; that he then asked the deponent what she thought of Mrs. Prescott; and upon her saying she thought her extremely ill, he suddenly burst into a laugh; and said, oh, it is all a sham, there is nothing the matter with her; and then ordered her, in the most peremptory manner, to get up instantly. That the deponent then told the said Isaac Prescott, she was surprized at his behaviour, and was so shocked thereat herself, that she went out of the room directly; and whilst she was in the parlour underneath, she heard the said Isaac Prescott swearing and raving in the most violent manner, and could plainly distinguish, from the sound of their feet, that the said Jane Prescott was out of bed;  
and

and she hath no doubt but she was forced out of bed by the said Isaac Prescott. That a day or two afterwards, and when the said Jane Prescott was so far recovered as to be able to get up, she being nevertheless very feeble, and unable to go down stairs, she requested to have a fire in her own room, the weather being then extremely cold, and it being then very improper for her, in her then situation, to sit without one: that accordingly the deponent and her servant went up to light a fire, when the said Isaac Prescott, in the most surly manner, insisted there should be no fire lighted there; and if the said Jane Prescott must have a fire to sit by, she should go down into the parlour, although the deponent says, she was then so weak as to be unable to go down stairs: and the said Isaac Prescott then obliged the deponent and her servant to go out of the room, without suffering them to light a fire, and he locked the door upon them. And she further says, that at such times as she has heard the said Isaac Prescott so storming and raving at the said Jane Prescott, she has heard the said Jane Prescott crying excessively, asking his pardon, though at the same time she did not know for what, and begging to know how she had offended him, that she might

might avoid it in future. That at one time in particular, the said Isaac and Jane Prescott had been out to dinner, and came home together in the evening; when the said Isaac Prescott appeared to be in a very ill humour; and the said Jane Prescott going into the garden, he followed and drove her into the house and up stairs before him. That the deponent, apprehending from his violence, he was going to strike the said Jane Prescott, went and stood before them, and asked them what was the matter, to which the said Isaac Prescott made no reply to the deponent; but said to the said Jane Prescott, damn you, madam, go into bed directly; and he then thrust her violently into her room; and afterwards the deponent heard him storming and raving at the said Jane Prescott, in the most violent manner, till 4 o'clock in the morning, and the noise he made so terrified his daughter, then a girl of 10 or 12 years old, who lay in the back room, that she cried violently; and the deponent went and lay with her that night, fearing that, through her excessive terrors, she might be thrown into fits.

She further says, that during the time the said Isaac and Jane Prescott so lodged  
at



at her house a second time, his behaviour towards her was full as violent as it had been during the first time; that in particular one night, she was sitting in her back parlour, when the said Isaac and Jane Prescott were at supper, in the front parlour, and the doors of each room were open; that the deponent then heard the said Isaac Prescott, in a very ill humour, at first refusing to eat any supper, and afterwards finding fault with, and railing at the said Jane Prescott, and saying she had eaten the part she knew he liked best, and that he had only at first refused eating any supper, to see if she would do so or not; that the said Isaac Prescott then flew into a most violent passion, swearing at, and abusing her in the most outrageous manner; that the said Jane Prescott, after some time, went up stairs, and was soon followed by the said Isaac Prescott, who as he went along continued to curse, damn, and abuse her most violently; and the deponent further says, that on the day when the said Isaac and Jane Prescott quitted her lodgings the second time, the said Isaac Prescott sent for the deponent, and discharged the lodging, saying, he was going on board his ship, and should come no more on shore,

shore, and if the said Jane Prescott continued there any longer, she must be answerable for the rent; that nevertheless the said Isaac Prescott did return to her house the same afternoon; but what passed between him and the said Jane Prescott, she was not witness to, and only heard of. That she has often seen the said Isaac Prescott rub his hand up and down the said Jane Prescott's face, and take her by the nose; that he appeared to do so more out of frolic than any thing else; but such treatment did not appear to be agreeable to the said Jane Prescott, who used to beg of him not to do it, which did not, however, produce the desired effect.

She also says, that at times when the said Isaac Prescott has been abusing the said Jane Prescott at her house, she hath known her retire for shelter, into the room of the daughter of the said Isaac Prescott, where she has staid some time, and that sometimes after she has been undressed to go to bed. That the deponent has frequently known the said Isaac Prescott, when he has been in passions with the said Jane Prescott, hinder her from eating her meals, insomuch, that she  
has

has more than once, unknown to the said Isaac Prescott, carried her victuals and drink, and has thought it necessary to do so, for fear of her being ill for want of food; and further she cannot depose.

MARY MOORE.

13th August, 1783.

*The Deposition of William Fletcher.*

WILLIAM FLETCHER, of Portsmouth Common, in the parish of Portsea, in the county of Southampton, caulker, aged about forty-two years, a witness produced and sworn. He deposes, that he came to know the said Isaac and Jane Prescott by their lodging at two different times at the house of Mrs. Phillips, in Frederick street, Portsmouth Common, next door to where the deponent lived: that whilst they so lodged there, he has

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heard several times great disturbances in Mrs. Phillips's house; but never took any notice thereof himself, except one night during the second time the said Isaac and Jane Prescott so lodged at Mrs. Phillips's, which he thinks was about two years ago, when he was waked out of his sleep, in the middle of the night, by a most violent noise in Mrs. Phillips's house, there being but a thin partition between Mrs. Phillips's and the deponent's house; that the deponent on waking, asked his wife what was the matter; to which she replied, she supposed Captain Prescott was come home drunk, and was beating his wife: that the deponent thereupon got out of bed, and heard some one, but whom he cannot say of his own knowledge, thumping and shoving violently at the back chamber door, in Mrs. Phillips's house, which was even with the deponent's room; that in a little time the door burst open, and the person who had been shoving at it, appeared to the deponent to fall into the room on the bursting of the door; that the deponent at the same time heard the voice of a child, which he imagines was captain Prescott's daughter, a girl about ten years old, crying, and the voice of a woman screaming out, and crying; and immediately afterwards.

wards the persons in the room ran down stairs, and the deponent heard no more of them that night. That the deponent believes that the aforesaid disturbance was between the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, but cannot pretend to say he knows it was them who made such noise; and further he cannot depose.

## The mark of



WILLIAM FLETCHER.

*The Deposition of Elizabeth Fletcher.*

ELIZABETH FLETCHER, wife  
of William Fletcher, of Portsmouth-  
Common, in the parish of Portsea, in the  
county of Sonthampton, aged about forty-  
three years, a witness produced and sworn.  
She deposes, that she came to know the  
said Isaac and Jane Prescott, by their lodg-  
ing at Mrs. Phillips's, in Frederic street,  
on Portsmouth Common, next door to  
F 2 where

where she then lived, which she thinks was about two years ago: that whilst they so lodged there, she has heard violent noises in the house of Mrs. Phillips, both in the day time and night; and the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent. She also says, that the bed-chamber of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, at Mrs. Phillips's, was a front room up one pair of stairs, and there was a back room in the same floor, into which you descended by two steps, which back room was immediately adjoining the deponent's chamber; and between the two rooms there was but a very thin partition, and in that room the said Isaac Prescott's daughter used to sleep, that one night, during the first time they so lodged at Mrs. Phillips's, the deponent was waked with a violent noise; and getting out of bed, heard the said Isaac Prescott, as she judged by his voice, call out three or four times, Jane, Jane, and no one answering, he said, very loud, and in a violent passion, "By God, if you don't open the door, I'll burst it open;" and immediately he began beating and thumping violently, at the said back chamber door, and soon burst it open, and in bursting it fell down the two steps into the room, as the deponent judged by the noise; that she then  
heard



heard the said Isaac Prescott say, in a very loud tone, "Damn you, you bitch, what have you forsook my bed?" to which she heard a woman's voice, which she has no doubt was the said Jane Prescott's reply, "No, Captain Prescott, I have not." That the deponent then distinctly heard several violent blows, which she has no doubt were inflicted by the said Isaac Prescott, on the said Jane Prescott; for she at the same time, heard the said Jane Prescott crying out, "For God's sake, don't use me so ill, and I'll get up, and come to you directly;" from which the deponent apprehends the said Jane Prescott had gone to bed with the child; that, however, before the said Jane Prescott could have had time to put her cloath's on, the deponent heard her (without shoe or stocking on, as she judged by the sound of her foot) run, crying, out of the room, and down stairs; and was immediately followed by the said Isaac Prescott, cursing, swearing and storming, in a most violent manner. That the deponent cannot say of her own knowledge, what passed down stairs, but she very soon heard them upon the stairs again; and from the kind of noise, she judged the said Isaac Prescott was pulling, or dragging, the said Jane Prescott

Prescott up stairs, and into the front chamber; and the deponent heard the said Jane Prescott repeatedly cry out, "For God's sake, don't use me so;" that after they were in the front chamber, and the door thereof shut, the deponent heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent, for an hour, or an hour and a half, and the said Jane Prescott repeatedly crying out; but she could not then hear or distinguish anything further. That the next morning, the deponent seeing the said Isaac Prescott in Mrs. Phillips's garden, she threw up her sash, and called out so as to make him hear her; thank God, we shall have corn cheap at market to-day, for there was a deal of threshing last night; I heard somebody, I don't call him a gentleman, or a man, beating and abusing his wife most cruelly. That the said Isaac Prescott made the deponent no answer, but looked up at her very angrily.

The mark of



ELIZABETH FLETCHER.

*The Deposition of Mary Sewell.*

MARY SEWELL, wife of George Sewell, of the parish of Kingston, near Portsmouth, in the county of Southampton, aged thirty-one years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that she has for some years known Jane Prescott, formerly Walter, and also knows the Reverend Richard Walter, and Jane Walter his wife, the father and mother of the said Jane Prescott, and likewise has known Isaac Prescott for some years, and as well before as since his marriage with the said Jane Prescott; and from the whole she has seen of the said Isaac Prescott, she thinks him of a very uncertain, unsettled temper and disposition, being at times extremely affable, good humoured, and excellent company, and at other times altogether surly, morose, and passionate in the greatest extreme; and the deponent hath seen such changes in his temper and behaviour very frequent and sudden, and unaccountable, without any apparent real cause.

She also deposes, that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott resided at the Rev. Mr. Walters's



Walter's, Mrs. Prescott's father's, for about five weeks, after their marriage, and that during that period, she saw the said Isaac Prescott put himself into the most violent passions with the said Jane Prescott, and curse and swear at her most violently, and call her by the most opprobrious names imaginable, and use the most abusive, indecent, and improper language; and all, as far as the deponent verily believes, without the least provocation given by her; that such treatment used to terrify the said Jane Prescott, and make her cry excessively: that one day in particular, about three weeks after their marriage, and the next day after the said Isaac and Jane Prescott had made their first appearance at the Portsmouth assembly, the deponent was in their bed-chamber, and the said Isaac and Jane Prescott were together in their dressing room adjoining, there being only a wainscot partition between the two rooms, when the said Isaac Prescott took occasion to fly into a most violent passion with the said Jane Prescott, and the deponent heard him swear and storm at her most violently, call her a bitch, a whore, and the most opprobrious names, and use the most abusive and improper language. That the deponent could plainly hear the

the sound of blows, given with the hand, or fist, which from the violence of the said Isaac Prescott, and the crying and complaints which she heard at the same time from the said Jane Prescott, she hath no doubt were the sound of blows given and inflicted by the said Isaac Prescott, on the said Jane Prescott; that the deponent went into the room, to Mrs. Prescott, after the said Isaac Prescott had left it, and then saw the said Jane Prescott crying very much, her cap off, the remains of which the deponent saw burnt in the fire, and her hair quite dishevelled, and she then told the deponent, Captain Prescott had been beating her, and tore her cap off her head, and threw it into the fire.

She further says, that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott went from the house of Mr. Walter, somewhere in the neighbourhood of London, and about March or April, in the same year, returned to Portsmouth, and took lodgings at the house of a Mrs. Moore, in Daniel's Row, Portsmouth Common; that the deponent visited the said Jane Prescott there frequently, and was with her very much in the day time; that soon after their coming there, the said Jane Prescott was

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taken so ill of a bilious complaint, as to be confined to her bed for several days, during which time the deponent was much with her; that one day, when the said Jane Prescott was so far recovered, as to be able to get up, but not so as to be fit to dress to go out of her room, the deponent went to see her, when she found the said Isaac Prescott with the purser of the Seaford, in the parlour, with a fire in the room, the weather being then so cold as to require it. That the deponent went up into Mrs. Prescott's room, where she was sitting without a fire, and the deponent observing it was very improper for her to do so, so ill as she was; then she rung the bell, and the servant came up to light the fire; that the fire not burning, the deponent took the bellows to blow it, and whilst she was blowing, the said Isaac Prescott came into the room, and flew into a violent passion with the said Jane Prescott, for ordering the fire to be lighted, forced the bellows out of the deponent's hand, threw them into the middle of the room, and raked the grate quite empty. That he then abused and swore at the said Jane Prescott, and insisted upon her dressing herself instantly, and going down stairs, and actually forced her to do so. That the said  
Jane



Jane Prescott the next day, and for several days afterwards, relapsed, and was much worse of her illness, again occasioned by the ill treatment of the said Isaac Prescott, and his forcing her down stairs at that time; she also says, that several times, and whilst they so lodged at Mrs. Moore's, she hath seen the said Isaac Prescott fly into violent passions, without the least apparent cause, when he would curse and swear at the said Jane Prescott, use the most abusive and indecent language, and call her by the most opprobrious names.

She further says, that they lodged for a month or six weeks a second time, at the house of Mrs. Moore, about July and August, in the year 1779; and that during that time, she frequently visited the said Jane Prescott, who was then with child, and saw several instances of the said Isaac Prescott falling into the most violent passions at her, calling her names, and using the most abusive language, and all without the least apparent cause on her part; on the contrary, she used at such times every endeavour to sooth and pacify him. She says that she has seen the said Isaac Prescott follow the said Jane Prescott, when she has gone into the garden

on her necessary occasions, and insist upon her not going, and he has forced her to return into the house without going, violently pushing and driving her in before him; for what reason she cannot say, unless it was with a view of making her ill in her then condition; and such treatment used to distress the said Jane Prescott in the highest degree, and make her cry and lament excessively.

She also says, that during the time they lived at the house of Mrs. Phillips, in Frederic-street, she went to visit the said Jane Prescott, but was told each time by the servant, she was not within; that she apprehended at the time she was within: and she has since been informed and believes it was done by order of the said Isaac Prescott, that she might not see any more of his ill-behaviour to his wife, and communicate it to her friends.

MARY SEWELL.

*14th August, 1783.**The Deposition of Sarah Dilke.*

SARAH DILKE, wife of Charles Dilke, of Chapel Row, Portsmouth-Common, in the County of Southampton, aged nineteen years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says she is servant of Mrs. Phillips, and that soon after she had been there in the winter, the articulate Isaac Prescott, and Jane Prescott the producent, came to lodge at the house of the said Mrs. Phillips, and staid there about sixteen weeks; that she has frequently heard the said Isaac Prescott put himself into the most violent passions with the said Jane Prescott, and storm, rave and swear at her in the most shocking manner, call her bitch, whore, hell-cat, and the most abusive names he could think of, and a thousand times over use the most foul and indecent language to her the deponent ever heard a man use to a woman; and otherwise treat her with the worst of usage. That she never knew the said Jane Prescott give the least cause  
for



for such treatment; but, on the contrary, always behaved to him in the most submissive manner. That such treatment greatly grieved the said Jane Prescott, who never passed a day without being in tears, and was often so from morning till night.

She says, that one evening they had had a gentleman and lady to drink tea and sup with them, and when they were gone, the deponent went into the parlour to take the things off the table; and just as she entered, she saw the said Isaac Prescott in a most violent passion strike the said Jane Prescott, with his clinched fist, a violent blow between the shoulders, which caused her to cry out. That the said Jane Prescott then went up stairs to go to bed, and was soon followed by the said Isaac Prescott, and, in a little time, when the deponent believes the said Jane Prescott was undrest, and got into bed, she being in one of the parlours, she heard the said Isaac Prescott turn her out of his room, saying, she should not sleep in his bed; and thereupon the said Jane Prescott went into the back room, where a daughter of the said Isaac Prescott's lay, a little girl; and, as the deponent thinks, went to bed to her: that soon after, she heard the said  
Isaac

Isaac Prescott calling out, Jane, What have you forsook my bed? To which she replied, "No, Captain Prescott if you won't beat me, I'll come out." That the said Isaac Prescott then called to her several times to open the door, and not receiving any answer, he burst it open, breaking the lock, and splitting the panel of the door: that when he was in the room, she heard the said Jane Prescott scream out often, as if he was beating her, and then she ran out, and down stairs into the cellar, to escape from his violence, with only her shift, stockings, and under-petticoats on; and the deponent being then in the kitchen, shut the cellar door upon her, to prevent the said Isaac Prescott's seeing where she was gone; that the said Isaac Prescott came down stairs immediately, and went into the garden through the kitchen, which opportunity the deponent took of letting her out of the cellar, when she went into her own chamber: that when the said Isaac Prescott returned from the garden, he went into his own room also; and there the deponent heard him very loud with the said Jane Prescott, and the said Jane Prescott frequently crying out as if he was beating her, and it was three or four in the morning before the noise was over.

over. And she further says, that the said Jane Prescott never complained to her of the said Isaac Prescott's ill usage, but appeared always desirous of keeping it to herself: that at times, when the deponent had heard the said Isaac Prescott very loud with the said Jane Prescott, and beating her, as the deponent apprehends from the screams of the said Jane Prescott, the said Isaac Prescott used to laugh and sing, and make a noise, with a view, as the deponent apprehends, of drowning her cries, and preventing her being heard, and the deponent has several times known her fellow witness, Elizabeth Fletcher, who lived next door, come in and complain to him of the disturbances in her house, and say it used to break their rest at nights; and that Mrs. Phillips's was no better than a disorderly house: and the deponent has also heard the said Mrs. Phillips wish that the said Isaac Prescott and Jane Prescott had never come into her house.

She further says, that she remembers one day being waiting on the said Isaac and Jane Prescott at dinner, when the said Isaac Prescott got up to help himself to something, he gave the said Jane Prescott a pinch on the arm, so as to make her



her cry out with the pain, without the least provocation ; that at another time he took into his head he would make the tea himself, and having poured the water which had been used to warm the tea-pot and cups preparatory to making tea, into the flop-bason, the said Jane Prescott said something, proposing to make the tea, or something of that kind, when the said Isaac Prescott, without any other cause whatever, took up the flop-bason, and threw the contents at her, that luckily the greatest part of the water missed her, and flew against the curtain, otherwise the deponent is convinced it must have scalded her. And she has several times known the said Isaac Prescott hinder the said Jane Prescott from going into the garden on her necessary occasions, for an hour or two, and that with a view to plague her, and perhaps to injure her health, she being then with child. That when the said Isaac and Jane Prescott left Mrs. Phillips's, she set off to go to Richmond, and the said Isaac Prescott was going to sea ; that on the morning they set off, the chaise was at the door at least an hour and a half, during which time she heard the said Jane Prescott beg the said Isaac Prescott to part with her in a friendly

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manner, and upon good terms, and also write to her in his absence; but without effect, he being all the while in the most surly ill-humour imaginable, saying, frequently, he would never write to her, or take any notice of her, and refusing to take leave of her, but bidding her be gone in the most morose manner; and he at length compelled her to get into the chaise, and set off, without taking any leave of her; and she left the house in the most violent agony, grief, and distress imaginable; and further she cannot say.

SARAH DILKE.

12th August, 1783.

*The Deposition of Jane Walter.*

JANE WALTER, wife of the Rev. Richard Walter, clerk, of Portsmouth, in the county of Southampton, aged sixty years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, she is the lawful mother of Jane Prescott, formerly Walter, the producent in this cause, who about the fifth day of January, 1779, was married to the articulate Isaac Prescott, Esq; the other party in this cause; that the said Jane Prescott has received a very virtuous good education, and is of a temper and disposition remarkably mild, affable, meek and condescending: that she has known the articulate Isaac Prescott these twenty years past, and looks upon him to be a person who can and does frequently put on the appearance of a courteous good disposition; and can and does sometimes make himself as good and agreeable company as any man living; but that he is naturally not only passionate and violent, but of a most morose, fullen, and wicked temper and disposition; and as well from



her own observations as from what she has since repeatedly learnt and been informed of, she verily believes, that from a very few days after the marriage of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, and until the said Jane Prescott was obliged to and did quit his house, on account of his ill treatment of her: he used to ill treat his said wife, by cursing and swearing at her, calling her by the most scandalous and opprobrious names, making use of the worst of language to her, beating her, and otherwise using her in the most cruel and unwarrantable manner.

She further says, that from and immediately after the said marriage, they lived and resided in the deponent's house, for about five weeks, and had apartments, consisting of a bed-chamber, and dining room adjoining, allotted them; that within ten days at farthest, after the said marriage, the deponent was just returned from market, and going into her own apartment, when, as she was in the passage, she heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent, and cursing and swearing in a shocking manner; and listening to hear what was the matter, she soon heard the sound of a violent blow, and, immediately afterwards, the sound

found of something dragging about the floor. That the deponent, being very much alarmed and terrified, immediately ran down stairs, to tell her husband what she thought was the matter; but he not being at home, she went up stairs again, and into her own room: that still hearing the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent, she went into the passage again, to their dressing room door, very much terrified, and undetermined what to do; but she had but just got to the door, when the said Isaac Prescott opened it, and pushed the said Jane Prescott out so violently, that she must inevitably have fallen on the floor, if the deponent had not been there, and prevented it, by catching her in her arms. That the deponent then took the said Jane Prescott into her own room, where she sat down, and remained about ten minutes in tears and great distress, but without complaining of any ill treatment, and then returned into her own apartment. That shortly after, the said Isaac Prescott went out, being engaged to dinner, and the said Jane Prescott was so ill as to be obliged to go to bed; that when the deponent followed the said Jane Prescott into her dressing room, she observed one of the chairs, as if it had

had been dragged about, and a great slit torn in the cover thereof, and a cap of the said Jane Prescott on the harpsichord, torn and scorched, as if it had been lately thrown into the fire; the said Jane Prescott being at the time of the aforesaid transaction, dressed in her night cap, and morning gown; and, as the deponent was afterwards informed, having been obliged to alter her dress in that manner, on account of some ill treatment of the said Isaac Prescott towards her, before the deponent saw her; and she further says, that she mentioned the aforesaid circumstance to her husband, in consequence whereof he took occasion, on the next day at dinner, or within a day or two afterwards, to mention the circumstance of a man beating his wife, and to say, in the strongest and most emphatic manner, that a man who could and did do so, must be a most cowardly scoundrel; which the said Isaac Prescott did not at the time take notice of, further than by his looks, which shewed him to be angry and gloomy, and as if he took the observation as pointed to him. And she further says, that from the above instance of ill usage, she became very much alarmed about the said Jane Prescott, and used to listen at their dressing room door  
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frequently, when she has often heard the said Isaac Prescott, in the most violent passion, storming and swearing at the said Jane Prescott in the most horrid manner, call her by the most vile opprobrious names, and use the most foul abusive language to her : and by the noises she heard in the room at those times, and the complaints, intercessions, and tears which she has heard from the said Jane Prescott, she can have no doubt but the said Isaac Prescott frequently beat her : that at one of those times, the deponent went into the room, when she found him standing in the middle of the room, and by his looks and gestures, appearing almost wild with rage, and the said Jane Prescott at the further end of the room, in tears, and great distress ; and the only cause the said Isaac Prescott then assigned for his passion, was, that the said Jane Prescott had left the key of her comb case in the lock, which he said should not have been left there. That at another time the deponent found them both in bed, the said Isaac Prescott, when the deponent went in, pretending to be asleep, though but the moment before she went, she heard him very loud and violent, and the said Jane Prescott undrest, and kneeling up in bed in a supplicating posture, though

though at that time very ill, and in great danger of catching cold.

And the deponent further says, that from the first week after the said marriage, and during the time the said Isaac Prescott so remained at the deponent's house, the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott towards the said Jane Prescott, when in their own apartments and alone, was such as to keep the deponent in a continual alarm and fright, and in a state of distress and confusion; and the said Jane Prescott, was either so ill the whole time as to keep her bed, or was continually in tears and distress, but nevertheless, never complained of, or communicated the ill treatment she had so received, to the deponent or any one else, so far as she ever heard; and the said Isaac Prescott used to be so cautious, as to behave to her, in the parlour, and before company, with the greatest appearance of tenderness and affection: and so cautious had he used always to be in his conduct and behaviour before company, prior to his marriage with the said Jane Prescott, that the deponent does not recollect ever to have heard him make use of an oath prior to such his marriage.

She

She further says, that she has seen the hand writing of the said Isaac Prescott; and the several paper writings, marked No. 2, 3, 4, and 5, being now produced and shewn to her, she verily believes the whole series and contents thereof, respectively, to be all of the proper hand-writing of the said Isaac Prescott.

She further says, that when she was from home, she received an account by a letter, from a friend at Portsmouth, of the said Jane Prescott being taken dangerously ill, of a bilious complaint, and thereupon she immediately returned to Portsmouth, and went to see the said Jane Prescott, when she was much surprised to find they were out, and waited their return, when the said Isaac Prescott, upon their return, treated the deponent with such extreme rudeness and ill manners, that she was obliged to tell him he had already given sufficient cause of uneasiness in her family, and could not think of staying there to be ill treated by him; and although the deponent went purposely to drink tea with her daughter, she was obliged, by the said Isaac Prescott's rudeness, to come away without drinking tea; and the said Isaac Prescott very rudely called his servant, to shew her out of the house; after which,



she never had any personal intercourse with the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, whilst they continued to cohabit together; that since the said Jane Prescott has quitted her said husband's house, which was in the month of November last, the deponent has seen the said Jane Prescott many times, and verily thinks her health and spirits have been very much impaired, since her marriage with the said Isaac Prescott, occasioned principally, as she verily believes, by his repeated ill usage of her, and she verily believes that since the said Jane Prescott has so quitted the house of her said husband, she has never had any personal intercourse, whatever with him; and further she cannot say.

**JANE WALTER.**

1st October, 1783.

*The Deposition of Anne Norman.*

ANNE NORMAN, wife of James Norman, Esq. of St. George's Square, Portsmouth Common, in the county of Southampton, aged forty-six years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that she has known the articulate Isaac Prescott ever since he was a boy, and became acquainted with the articulate Jane Prescott, the producent, in consequence of his marriage with her; that she visited the said Isaac and Jane Prescott two or three times, when they lived at the house of Mrs. Phillips, in Fredericstreet, Portsmouth Common: that from what she has seen of the conduct and behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, she always did and does look upon him and esteem him to be a person of a very good and chearful temper and disposition, and the best of company; but at the same time, very much addicted to cursing and swearing in his common discourse, and to make use of low language; and he is a person also very subject to violent fits

of passion: she says, that when she has been in company with the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, she has seen and heard the said Isaac Prescott in very surly ill humours with the said Jane Prescott, when he would curse and swear violently, call her a damned bitch and whore, and the like; and reproach her with being a bad woman before he married her, and reflect upon her family, calling her father an old jesuit, and her sister a whore, and the like. That the said Jane Prescott, on these occasions, never gave any particular cause for such conduct and discourse, nor irritated him by sharp or angry answers; but the same appeared to affect her a great deal, and generally made her shed tears; and she used to intreat the said Isaac Prescott, whatever language he used to her, respecting herself, not to reflect upon her family, for she could not help or be answerable for any faults they might be guilty of; and the deponent has remonstrated with the said Isaac Prescott in the same way, and desired him to avoid reflecting on her family, and not use such language to her: and the deponent apprehends that on account of her so remonstrating with the said Isaac Prescott, he, during the latter part of the time of their lodging at Mrs. Phillips's, dropped the



the intercourse with the deponent and her family, and declined visiting her himself, or suffering the said Jane Prescott to visit her. But the deponent says she never saw him strike or attempt to strike the said Jane Prescott; and though his swearing, reflecting on her and her family, and rough language, used to appear to affect and distress the said Jane Prescott just at the time he used it, yet it did not appear to make any deep impression on her; for she would soon recover her spirits, and they would afterwards appear fond of each other, except the last time she was in company with them, when she went with intent to drink tea with them; but the said Isaac Prescott being then in a very cross humour, and cursing at and reflecting on the said Jane Prescott, she on that account declined staying to tea, and left the said Isaac Prescott in his ill humour, saying he might be ashamed of himself to swear so and use such language to a woman as he then did; and further she cannot depose.

ANNE NORMAN.

*16th August, 1783.**The Deposition of Betsy Norman.*

BETSY NORMAN, of St. George's Square, Portsmouth Common, in the county of Southampton, spinster, aged twenty-one years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, she has known the articulate Isaac Prescott, Esq; party in this cause, many years, and first came acquainted with Jane Prescott, the produdent, in consequence of his marriage with her: that since their marriage she has often been in company with them at their lodgings at Mrs. Moore's in Daniel's Row in Portsmouth Common, and afterwards at Mrs. Phillips's, in Frederic-street. She further says, that from the whole of the said Isaac Prescott's behaviour in company, in general, she looks upon him to be of a chearful good temper and disposition; but much addicted to swearing, as people used to the sea in general are; and from what she has seen of his behaviour to his wife, she has reason to think him at times subject to fits of ill humour and passion. She says that she has been in company with them when she

she has seen the said Isaac Prescott in very violent passions, when he would curse and swear a great deal, call the said Jane Prescott names, and reflect pretty strongly and severely upon her family, and the conduct of herself, her father, and sisters: that such passions and rough language of the said Isaac Prescott, appeared, at the time he was in them, to affect her a good deal, and made her shed tears; but did not appear to make any lasting impression on her; for that when the said Isaac Prescott's passions have been over, the deponent hath seen them appear to be upon very friendly terms; and he has then treated her in a very affectionate manner: and she is confident she never saw the said Isaac Prescott strike, or offer to strike the said Jane Prescott, or use her roughly with his hand: and further she cannot depose.

**BETSY NORMAN.**



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very violent passions, when he would  
call the said Jane Prescott names, and reflect pretty

*The Deposition of Ann Edwards.*

**ANN EDWARDS**, of Richmond,  
in the county of Surry, spinster, aged  
twenty-eight years, a witness produced  
and sworn. She deposes, that she first  
came to know the articulate Isaac Prescott  
party in this cause, and Jane Prescott,  
the producent, by going to live as servant  
with them; that when she first went, the  
said Isaac Prescott was abroad, and the  
said Jane Prescott was just going into a  
house on Richmond Green, in Surry,  
where the said Isaac Prescott came about  
the month of November following, but  
went away in about four or five days;  
that he returned to Richmond on the 7th  
of January following, and was backward  
and forward for some time, and till he  
went from thence to Deptford, to take a  
command of a new ship, called the  
Mercury; and, in January, 1780, the  
said Jane Prescott was delivered of a  
dead child; that, in the spring, the said  
Jane Prescott went from Richmond, to  
meet her husband at Portsmouth, and  
returned in about a fortnight, to Rich-  
mond,

mond, where her husband came to her again in November, from whence they went again, for Portsmouth, in about nine days afterwards: they then returned again to Richmond, and having staid there a short time, went again to Portsmouth, from whence the said Jane Prescott returned alone, her husband being then sailed on an expedition with Commodore Johnstone. That the said Isaac Prescott again returned to his wife, in March 1782, and was with her till the deponent left their service: and the deponent from the whole she has seen of the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, looks upon him to be a man of a very passionate, morose, harsh, and surly temper and disposition; that during the times she has had opportunities of seeing the said Isaac Prescott and Jane Prescott together, the said Isaac Prescott has, in several instances, behaved towards his said wife, in a very harsh, morose, cruel and improper manner, in the deponent's opinion.

She also says, she never was with them at Portsmouth, but remembers his returning to Richmond, about the 16th of November 1780, and staying till about the latter end of that month, and after

returning to Portsmouth for a very few days, coming back again to Richmond, and staying till near Christmas; that during such time, there never was a day passed without his quarrelling with, and violently abusing his wife; when the deponent has repeatedly heard him swear at her in a most shocking manner, and call her a bitch, whore, and other very opprobrious names, and without the least cause that she ever saw or heard. That one night, after the said Isaac Prescott's daughter, and a young lady on a visit there, were gone to bed, the parlour bell rang, the deponent went up to the door, and found it fastened; but the said Isaac Prescott calling to the deponent, told her to go up and take Miss Prescott's candle away; that she did so; and in her way down stairs again, and passing by the parlour door, she heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott loud, and in a passionate tone; and the said Jane Prescott crying out very much; and she also plainly heard the noise of blows given; from which she judged the said Isaac Prescott was then beating and using his wife ill. That another time the said Jane Prescott was up in her own room, when, as she informed the deponent, her husband had turned her out of the parlour,



lour, and would not let her sit with him there; and the deponent thereupon went up to light the fire in her room, it being in November or December; but the said Isaac Prescott then came up and forbid the deponent to light the fire, and made her go down again without lighting it. That at another time the deponent was waiting at table, at supper, when there were some oysters in particular for supper, but what else she cannot recollect; that the said Isaac Prescott had finished his supper before his wife began to eat; but upon her attempting to take an oyster, he damned her, and swore she should have no supper; and the deponent was, by his peremptory order, obliged to take every thing away without his suffering his wife to touch a morsel.

She further says, that the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott was always so violent and passionate, that whenever he was in the house she, herself, was in continual fear of him, and was always glad to get out of his way; and she has reason to believe that his behaviour had nearly the same effect upon the rest of the servants: and further she cannot depose.

ANN EDWARDS.

*4th October, 1783.**The Deposition of Rose Hannah Lunn.*

ROSE HANNAH LUNN, of Brentford, in the county of Middlesex, spinster, aged twenty-three years, a witness produced and sworn. She deposes, that she first came to know the articulate Jane Prescott the producent, and the articulate Isaac Prescott, her husband, the other party in this cause, by going to live as a servant to them in their house at Richmond in Surry; that when she first went, the said Isaac Prescott was at sea, as she understood, but returned home to Richmond about the 16th of November following; that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott never resided a long time together at Richmond, he being often absent on his duty abroad, and at other times the said Jane Prescott being absent with him at Portsmouth, she says that from the whole of the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, she looks upon him to be a person of a most passionate, morose, surly, and cruel temper and disposition; and she has seen instances of his ill treating the said Jane Prescott

Prescott in a most harsh, cruel and improper manner, swearing at her most violently, and calling her by the most vile opprobrious names imaginable ; and that, as far as the deponent ever saw, without the least provocation on her part, who on the contrary always used to behave in the most submissive manner, and used every endeavour to pacify him, and reduce him to a better temper and disposition.

She further says, that she first saw the said Isaac Prescott about the 16th of November 1780, and on the very day after such his arrival, the deponent being coming down stairs, and through the passage adjoining the parlour, she heard the said Isaac Prescott in the parlour, very loud, and in a violent passion, swearing the most shocking oaths, and calling his wife repeatedly a bitch, whore, and other opprobrious names ; and at the same time the deponent heard the voice of his wife, crying very much ; that the deponent afterwards, in the passage, heard the noise of many blows given, and some one fall down, and dragged about the floor, which she has no doubt was the said Jane Prescott, violently beaten, and dragged about by her husband, he being at the same time very loud and passionate, and the said



said Jane Prescott crying out, and screaming bitterly, and begging for mercy; and the same night the deponent remembers, there was no cloth laid for supper, by the express order of the said Isaac Prescott; and the said Jane Prescott having, whilst he was from home, about an hour in the evening, ordered some oysters to be got for supper, he on his return forbade their being brought into the parlour; and the deponent verily believes the said Jane Prescott went to bed that night without being suffered to eat any supper.

She further says, she well remembers the said Isaac Prescott's coming to Richmond in March 1782, and continuing there till the beginning of May, during which time he renewed his ill behaviour towards his wife, so far that the deponent often heard him in violent passions, quarrelling with, and violently abusing and swearing at the said Jane Prescott, and calling her by the most opprobrious names; but does not recollect to have seen him beat her during that time.

She further says, that whilst they lived at Richmond together, and she was in their service, both herself and the rest of the

the servants have frequently heard violent cries from the said Jane Prescott in her own room, when they have been going to bed, and also very early in the morning, and the said Isaac Prescott at the same time very loud, passionate and violent; and the said Isaac Prescott's behaviour was such, that the deponent and the other servants were under continual apprehensions of his doing his wife some violent injury; and frequently expressed their apprehensions to each other to that effect; and every one in the house was almost in a constant alarm and terror, owing to the passionate and violent behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott.

And she further says, that one day in particular, in December 1780, and about three days after their return from Portsmouth to Richmond, they being together in the parlour, and the deponent happening to go along the passage, close to the parlour, heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and violent, and his wife crying out very much, and the noise of many blows given; that she soon after heard the noise of the poker being drawn out of the fire, and the voice of the said Jane Prescott at the same time screaming out violently; and she was afterwards informed

formed by the said Jane Prescott, upon enquiring of her, that the said Isaac Prescott terrified her exceedingly, by taking the poker hot out of the fire, and offering to burn her with it. That the same evening, the deponent being again in the passage, near the parlour, heard the said Isaac Prescott again very loud and violent in the parlour, and the noise of many blows given, and the voice of the said Jane Prescott crying out very much; and she afterwards heard her beg of him to let her go out of the room; and the said Isaac Prescott said she might if she would: but upon her coming towards the door for that purpose, the deponent heard a noise as of the said Isaac Prescott coming up to and dragging her backwards on the floor, and immediately the door was locked, and the key taken out; that in a little time the parlour bell rang, and the deponent's fellow servant, Ann Edwards, going up to answer it, the deponent heard the said Isaac Prescott speaking to her fellow servant through the door, and bidding her go and fetch Miss Prescott's candle down; that very soon afterwards the deponent again heard the voice of the said Jane Prescott crying out very much, and a noise as of the said Isaac Prescott again beating her; that she afterwards heard him playing on the  
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the harpsichord, and making a noise, as if to drown the cries of the said Jane Prescott, and prevent her being heard; that after a short pause of silence, she heard him say, let us have the other tune, it's no new thing to me; it's like the wild geese in Newfoundland in the morning; and she then heard a noise as of the said Jane Prescott again crying out, and screaming very much; that upon their going up stairs to bed, she heard him say to her, he was never so happy as when he was using her so; and upon her saying she hoped the next wife he had would have a little more spirit and suit him better, or to that effect, he replied, if he had he would murder her; and the deponent has at several other times heard the like noises of beating and blows, when they have been together; and the voice of the said Jane Prescott screaming out, and crying and begging for mercy. That the deponent verily believes the said Isaac Prescott has several times prevented his wife from eating her meals, and she once remembers her coming into the kitchen, and begging the deponent to make her a sop from the meat then roasting, and complaining she was quite weak for want of food; that at times, when he has so ill treated the said Jane Prescott, she used to retire into her

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bed-chamber if she could get away from him, when she would desire a fire to be lighted there; but which he used always to prevent her having: and one time in particular she remembers his going up stairs, and raking out all the fire, after it had been lighted; and strictly forbidding any fire to be lighted in that room: and she has frequently known her obliged to sit without a fire in her own room, for hours together, and that in very cold weather. She says that she is now in service with an aunt of Mrs. Prescott's, to whom the said Mrs. Prescott came, when she was obliged to leave her husband's house, which must have been sometime in November last; since which time she has never had any personal intercourse with him, as the deponent verily believes; and further she cannot depose.

ROSE HANNAH LUNN.

7th October, 1783.

*The Deposition of Elizabeth Gale.*

ELIZABETH GALE, of Kew Green, in the county of Surry, spinster, aged nineteen years, a witness produced and sworn. She says, that she first came to know the articulate Jane Prescott, productive, and the said Isaac Prescott, Esq; her husband, the other party in this cause, by going to live as servant to them at Richmond Green, in Surry, from whence they removed in about three weeks into lodgings at Richmond, and from thence in five or six weeks, into a house at Teddington in Middlesex, where the deponent staid in their service about three months. She likewise says, that from the conduct and behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, she thinks him a man of a very violent, morose, passionate and cruel temper and disposition; and whilst she lived in their service, she has frequently heard him in violent passions with, and as she apprehended, using his wife extremely ill, and that without any provocation given by the said Jane Prescott, so far as she ever observed.



She further deposes, that several times at Teddington, after every body in the house were retired to go to bed, she and the other servant had heard violent noises in their chamber, and much scuffling, and could plainly distinguish the voice of the said Isaac Prescott very loud and passionate and swearing shockingly; and that of the said Jane Prescott screaming out, and crying bitterly, as if through violent ill treatment: and on such occasions she has several times come out of her husband's room, and went up into and slept in a garret adjoining to the servant's garret, in which was a spare bed, and used to say she was compelled to do so through her husband's ill usage. That once she went up and slept in such bed till four o'clock in the morning, when there were no sheets on it (there being none to be got at, except what were in the room adjoining to her husband's room, and which could not at that time of night be aired), and then again went into her husband's room: that the same morning, after her husband was up, the deponent went to attend his wife before she was up, and observed one of her eyes to be very red and swelled, and afterwards the redness turned black, and appeared to be the consequence of a violent blow.

She

She further says, that whilst they lived at Richmond, that she and the other servants have, from the kitchen, heard the said Isaac Prescott, in the parlour or dining room, very loud, and in violent passions with and swearing at his wife, and repeatedly calling her bitch, whore, and many such like opprobrious names; and has often heard also the noise of blows given. That once, while they were at Richmond, the deponent, coming out of the kitchen, and being on the stairs, heard a noise, which she believes to have been the consequence of the said Isaac Prescott pushing his wife (who was screaming out) down on the floor in the dining room; that she then heard the said Isaac Prescott, in a very surly passionate tone, bid the said Jane Prescott get up again, and upon her replying she was afraid he would push her down again, the deponent heard him say, upon his soul he would not; but as soon, as the deponent apprehends, as she was up again, she heard a like noise, as of the said Jane Prescott being pushed a second time down, and she then heard him laugh; and for about a week after such circumstance, the said Jane Prescott was in great pain, and extremely ill with a complaint in her back, inasmuch that she could scarcely walk or sit upright.

She

She also says, that while they were at Teddington, after the said Isaac and Jane Prescott were gone up stairs to bed, the bell rang, and the deponent answering it, Mrs. Prescott told her the shutters of the next room windows were not shut, and the deponent went in to shut them; that whilst she was so doing, she heard the said Isaac Prescott say to his wife, if she liked air, she should have plenty of it, and then both the sashes were thrown up: that the same night, after the deponent and the other servants were gone up to bed, they heard a great noise for some time in the said Isaac Prescott's room; after which the said Isaac Prescott came up stairs, crying, into the garret, in her bed-gown, which was very much torn, and, as she said, by her husband, because she had put it on on account of the sashes of her room windows being kept open by her husband; and that was the time she lay part of the night in the garret, without any sheets on the bed.

She further says, she has frequently heard the said Isaac Prescott abusing and ill treating his wife during their meals, as well as at other times; and on such occasions she has often seen her come out of the room in tears, and as she verily believes  
without



without eating her meals; for at such times the deponent has often carried her victuals, both breakfast and dinner, which she has sat and eaten on the landing place of the garret stairs; and the deponent and the other servants, both at Richmond and Teddington, have frequently said, among themselves, there was no peace or happiness in the house, by reason of the noises made by the said Isaac Prescott continually swearing at, abusing, and ill treating his wife.

She further says, that once at Teddington the said Isaac Prescott took it into his head to lock all the room doors, except the garret, and kept them locked great part of a day, and thereby prevented his wife from going into any of them. That she knows the said Jane Prescott often had her meals on the garret landing place, and two or three times slept in the garret with the deponent and the other maid servant, and several other times in the spare garret adjoining; and whenever she did so, the deponent is of opinion she was compelled thereto by the ill usage she received from her husband in her own room, by reason she has, at those times, heard violent noises in her room; and on such occasions, she came up stairs in tears and

and great distress. And she further says, that she now does and has for seven months past lived in the service of the said Jane Prescott, at Kew Green, during which period she has never had any intercourse whatever with her husband. And further she cannot say.

ELIZABETH GALE.

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7th October, 1783.

*The Deposition of Thomas Piercy.*

THOMAS PIERCY, of Richmond, in the county of Surry, gardener, aged about twenty-six years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that he was lent by his master to the articulate Isaac Prescott, Esq; as a servant, in April 1782, and continued with them as a kind of servant in the day time, about two months, while they lived at Richmond Green, but used to sleep at home at nights, being a married man; and by that means he became acquainted with the  
said

the said Isaac and Jane Prescott; and from the whole he saw of the conduct of the said Isaac Prescott during such time, he believes him to be a person of a very morose, surly, violent and cruel temper and disposition: that he often saw them together, particularly at meal times, when he used to wait on them; when scarce a day passed but he used to fly into the most violent passions, and storm, curse and swear at his wife in the most shocking manner, and call her by the most opprobrious names; and that, as far as the deponent ever saw, without the least provocation whatever given by her, who used to appear deeply distressed and affected by such treatment: that he has frequently heard him damn, abuse, and speak ill of his wife's father, mother, and other relations, to her face, and seemingly with a design to distress and make her uneasy. That the deponent cannot say he ever saw the said Isaac Prescott strike his wife; but one night after supper, as the deponent was going up the kitchen stairs to go out at the front door to go home, he heard the said Isaac Prescott in the parlour, in a violent passion, and cursing and swearing at and abusing the said Jane Prescott in a most shocking manner; and his wife crying and lamenting very much; that there-

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upon,



upon, standing to listen, he heard the noise of a violent blow given, and the said Jane Prescott instantly cried out murder twice; that afterwards he continued cursing and swearing at and abusing her for some time, and till the deponent went out of the house; but the deponent, as well then as at other times, was deterred from going into the room, because he has frequently heard the said Isaac Prescott declare, in the most violent manner, and with oaths and imprecations, that if any one dared to come into the room on those occasions to see what was going forward, he would run them through the body, let them be who they would.

He further says, that he has often heard the servants talk among themselves of being constantly alarmed by the cries of the said Jane Prescott, when he has been ill treating her, and say there was no quiet in the house for him; and that they used to be alarmed by the cries of his wife at nights, after they had been gone to bed: and further he cannot say.

THOMAS PIERCY.

8th of October, 1783.

*The Deposition of John Sith.*

JOHN SITH, of Twickenham, in the county of Middlesex, servant, aged twenty-two years, a witness produced and sworn. He says, that he became servant to the articulate Isaac Prescott, by reason of the said Isaac Prescott's being appointed to the command of a ship, called the *Queen*, he having been the servant of the former commander of the said ship, and he quitted his service about nine months ago. That he was at the house of the reverend Richard Walter, (with his master) at Portsmouth, at the time that he inter-married with the articulate Jane Prescott the producent, then Jane Walter, the daughter of the reverend Richard Walter, and lived with them, till the said Jane Prescott quitted her husband at Teddington, which happened about the fifth day of November last; and, during that time, has been a witness of very many instances of the said Isaac Prescott falling into violent passions with, and cursing and swearing at his wife, in a

most shocking manner, calling her bitch, whore, and many other vile and opprobrious names, and in other respects ill treating and abusing her; that he has also often heard the noise of blows, which he has no doubt were inflicted by the said Isaac Prescott, on his wife, and once saw him in the act of beating his said wife; that his ill treatment of his wife began very soon after their marriage, and continued the whole time of their living together, and with very few intermissions; and the same used to cause his said wife to shed tears, and lament very much, and it appeared very deeply to affect and distress her, and from the whole he has seen of his behaviour, he looks upon him to be a person of a very violent, passionate, morose, cruel, and brutish temper and disposition: that the said Jane Prescott appeared to make it her whole study to endeavour to please him, and whenever he was in passions, always behaved with the utmost submission, and used every endeavour to sooth and pacify him, and never did or said any thing in the least tending to irritate or provoke him to anger, as far as the deponent ever saw.

He also says, that whilst they lived at  
Mrs.



Mrs. Phillips's in Frederic-street, Portsmouth Common, and when they lived at Teddington, he has several times, after every body has been gone up stairs to bed, heard the said Isaac Prescott turn his wife out of their bed room, and into other rooms, and follow her there, and turn her out again, and drive her down stairs, and back again, and at such times he has been in violent passions, damning and swearing at her, and calling her names; and has also then heard the noise of blows, and the said Jane Prescott in tears, and repeatedly crying out, and she has by such means been prevented by her husband from going to bed great part of the night.

He further says, that in the summer of 1779, whilst they lodged the second time at Mrs. Moore's, they came on board the Seaford one afternoon, with Miss Georgiana Prescott, the daughter of the said Isaac Prescott; that while they were in the cabin, the deponent hearing him in a violent passion, and his wife and daughter both crying out and screaming, he looked through a crack in the cabin wainscot, and saw him strike his wife with his doubled fist several violent blows about the shoulders, and the back of her head; that

that the cabin bell being rang soon after, the deponent's fellow servant, George Starling, who is since dead, first went in; and the deponent being afterwards ordered in by the said Isaac Prescott, upon account of a tea-pot which had been broke some time before, then saw the said Jane Prescott in tears, and great distress, with her cap almost off, her hair about her ears, and her dress otherwise very much disordered and tumbled.

He further says, that whilst they resided at Mrs. Phillips's, he used to lie in a room over that of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott; that scarce a day passed without his falling into violent passions with and swearing at his wife, abusing and calling her names; and that in the day time as well as at night, after they have been retired to go to bed. That he has several times heard him turn his wife out of the bed room, and drive her into other rooms, and up and down stairs; and from the noises the deponent has heard when he has been in those passions, and the tears and cries of the said Jane Prescott, and the deponent frequently hearing her beg and intreat him not to use her so, he hath no doubt but the said Isaac Prescott frequently struck and beat her in a violent  
and

and cruel manner. That he was one night in the room with them after supper, when he, being in a violent passion, took up a glass full of hot punch, or water for making punch, and threw it at her, and part of it went over her cloaths and wetted her, and part on the window curtains, and he at the same time exclaimed, damn you, you bitch, I wish it was boiling hot. That at another time he went out in the morning, after he had had his breakfast, and the said Jane Prescott coming down soon afterwards into a little back parlour, desired the deponent to bring her her breakfast there; that he accordingly did so, and just as he had carried the breakfast in, the said Isaac Prescott came into the house again, a back way, and immediately, in a violent passion, drove his wife up stairs before him and did not suffer her to have any breakfast that morning, and swore to the deponent, that if he ever caught him giving her any thing in his absence, or without his leave, he would have him severely flogged; and he used also often to say to the deponent, in the absence of his wife, that she was the damnedst bitch that ever lived, and threaten him, if ever he knew him to say any thing about his treatment of or behaviour to her, he would surely be the



the death of him. That another night, being the night before they were to set off early the next morning for Richmond, the deponent and coxswain, John Jefferson, had been to see a gentleman, who had spent the evening with the said Isaac Prescott, safe into Portsmouth; and upon their return, were told that the said Isaac Prescott had been using his wife extremely ill, and driving her about the house in her shift; that they were then in their own room, from whence (the door being a little open) the deponent heard the said Jane Prescott in tears, and her husband say to her, damn you, you bitch, damn you, my servants shall see you. That he then called out to the deponent and the said Jefferson, two or three times, to come up stairs, which, however, they took no notice of; but the deponent, peeping up stairs, and observing the door not to be so open but that they might pass by unperceived, he and the said Jefferson slipped up stairs into their own room, from whence, by the noise they heard, and the cries of the said Jane Prescott, he has no doubt but that the said Isaac Prescott continued to beat and ill use her a considerable time.

He further says, that for about a month or two after their marriage, they resided

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at the house of the Rev. Richard Walter, during which time the deponent remembers having heard the said Isaac Prescott abuse and curse and swear at his said wife, and call her names more than once; but the particulars of what passed or what gave rise to such usage, he did not take particular notice of, and cannot now recollect.

He further says, he remembers their lodging at a Mrs. Moore's, in Daniel's Row, Portsmouth Common, in the spring of 1779, and likewise that the said Jane Prescott was very ill during such period.

He further says, he remembers their lodging a second time at Mrs. Moore's; that whilst they so lodged there, he has several times heard the said Isaac Prescott curse and swear at his wife, and abuse her in the most violent manner, and call her by the most opprobrious names, and has heard her at the same time in tears and great distress; but he never remembers ever to have seen or heard him strike her at Mrs. Moore's; for that his behaviour was so disagreeable, that he always kept out of the way of seeing and hearing it as much as possible.

He also says, that he returned with the said Captain Prescott in March 1782, from an expedition with Commodore Johnstone; and that about May following, he went to live with them at Richmond, at which place they lived till July following; and there also the deponent has often heard him in violent passions with and swearing at and abusing his wife, and calling her names; and the said Jane Prescott at those times crying and lamenting very much.

He further says, that they resided at Teddington from July 1782, till the beginning of November following, during which time a day never passed without his hearing the said Isaac Prescott in violent passions with and storming and swearing at and abusing the said Jane Prescott most violent; and from the noises on those occasions, and the tears and cries of the said Jane Prescott, the deponent has no doubt he frequently beat her. That one time in particular, they being in the garden, and the deponent being sent for to them, in going towards them, he saw the said Isaac Prescott, in a violent passion, strike his wife two or three times violently, with his hand, that he then struck at her with his foot, but she got out of his  
his



his reach ; after which, he pelted her with some dirt. That he also saw them one day at the Gate, in company with the articulate Miss Casers ; and after they had been there some little time, he heard the said Isaac Prescott say to his wife, in a very surly manner, " Come, madam, march in ;" and after they were in the house, he heard him storm, swear at, and abuse his wife in a most violent manner.

He further says, that at several other times at Teddington, when the sisters and cousins of the said Isaac Prescott were there, he hath known the said Isaac Prescott prevent her having her meals ; and when he and the rest of the family have been at breakfast and dinner in the parlour, has known the said Jane Prescott sit by herself in the hall, or up in her own room, being obliged so to do by her husband. And the deponent has frequently, while they were at Mrs. Phillips's, left the house and gone on board the ship, and pretended illness, as an excuse for staying on board, because he did not like to see and hear the ill usage of the said Isaac Prescott towards his wife ; and the deponent has frequently heard the servants in the house, both at Portsmouth, Richmond, and Teddington, say they were

afraid, by the cries of the said Jane Prescott, that the said Isaac Prescott would sometime or other beat her so, as to do her a mischief; and used also to hear them complain, that there was no peace to be had in the house, by reason of his continual ill usage of his wife; and that their rest at nights was frequently broken and disturbed, by reason of the cries of the said Jane Prescott.

He further says, that the said Isaac Prescott told him frequently, he was never so happy as when he was ill using his wife, and that if he ever married, if he did not use his wife as he did his, he ought to be damned, and other expressions of the same tendency.

He further says, that when the said Jane Prescott left her husband's house at Teddington, her health appeared to be very much impaired, and was very much altered, owing in a great measure, as the deponent has every reason to apprehend, to the series of ill treatment she had met with from her husband; and further he cannot depose.

The mark of

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JOHN SITH.

*23d October, 1783.**The Deposition of Mary Bouchier.*

MARY BOURCHIER, wife of John Bouchier, Esq; of Richmond, in the county of Surry, aged thirty-four years, a witness produced and sworn. She deposes, that she is sister to the articulate Jane Prescott the producent. That the said Isaac and Jane Prescott continued for some time, after their marriage, at the house of the Rev. Mr. Walter; and that she continued there with them for a little time. That whilst she was there, she remarked, that the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott towards his wife before company, was sometimes very tender and affectionate; and at other times equally sullen and morose; but from the noises she used to hear when they were in their own apartment together, and the crying and sobbing which she used to hear from the said Jane Prescott, and her appearing frequently dull and dejected, and her eyes being frequently red and having the appearance of her having cried much, the deponent has every reason to believe that when alone, the said Isaac Prescott began  
to



to ill treat his wife very early, and not more than a week after their marriage, and frequently repeated such ill treatment; and it was from an apprehension thereof that a coolness took place between the deponent and the said Isaac Prescott, (and through his influence and interference) his wife also, insomuch that when she left her father's house, she was not on terms of common civility with either of them: and from the whole she has seen of the said Isaac Prescott, she looks upon his temper and disposition to be a very bad one, as bad as any man's well can be.

She further says, that one Sunday, in the latter end of May 1779, she being on a visit at the house of the articulate Mr. Ridge, at Kilminster, the said Isaac and Jane Prescott came there on a visit also, and staid till the Friday following: that she, not being then upon good terms, had no intercourse with them for the second or third first days, and saw nothing of them except before company, but remembers on the Wednesday afternoon (there being company) that upon Mrs. Prescott's coming into the drawing room, her face seemed remarkably flushed, and her eyes appeared very red and swelled, as if through excess-

five crying, and she appeared very dejected and low spirited: that the said Isaac and Jane Prescott being then to leave Kilminster the next day, and the deponent being desirous of being on good terms with her sister, wrote to her for that purpose, but it being intimated to the deponent, through the medium of Mrs. Ridge, that it was not to be done without an application to captain Prescott, she condescended to write to him also, and so brought about a reconciliation for that time: and she says, that on the Thursday, during dinner, the said Isaac Prescott appeared to be in so ill a humour as scarcely to be able to command his temper; that after dinner a walk being proposed, she saw him go up to his wife, and shaking his cane over her, in a morose threatening manner, the deponent overheard him order her to go instantly up stairs into her own room; that the deponent thereupon hurried the said Isaac Prescott and Mrs. Ridge out with her, with a view, that Mrs. Prescott, by being left alone, might have a little respite from her husband's ill treatment; that upon their return, they found Mrs. Prescott, and Mr. Ridge, walking in the court-yard, before the house, when the said Isaac Prescott went up to his wife, and

and surlily asked her what she did there, and then treated her with the foulest and most gross language. That in going into the house, she saw him push her before him across the stone passage, and up stairs. That immediately afterwards the deponent being again gone to the front of the house, heard a violent noise in their chamber, so as to make the windows of the house actually shake; that thereupon, running into the dining room under the chamber, she plainly heard the noise of many violent blows, and the voice of the said Jane Prescott screaming out and crying very much; upon which she ran up to Mrs. Ridge's chamber, and begged of her to go with her into their chamber: that they did so, and at first, as the deponent thinks, found the room door locked; but upon the said Isaac Prescott opening it, went in, and found his wife sitting in a condition, as if quite overcome, and stupified, and the said Isaac Prescott in a flush of violent anger; and upon their entering the room, he immediately went down stairs. That some time after, the deponent went up stairs again, to call Mrs. Prescott down to tea, and found her in a very dejected low spirited condition; and then saying she was sure her husband had been beating her, she only shook her head,



head, but made no reply; but afterwards told the deponent, that he had beat her: that the same afternoon, after tea, the deponent, Mrs. Ridge, and Mr. and Mrs. Prescott went out to walk in the garden, and Mrs. Ridge speaking of some fine bacon she had, they turned back towards the house, to go and look at it; that Mrs. Prescott then whispering to the deponent she must go to the necessary, and having turned that away, her husband, upon observing it, immediately caught hold of her, and swore if she chose to walk it should be with him; and thereupon dragged her along very fast into a long walk in the garden, out of sight of the walk they were then in. That the deponent and Mrs. Ridge followed; but before they came in sight, heard the said Jane Prescott scream out violently; and thereupon running as fast as they could to the walk they were in, the deponent there saw the said Isaac Prescott, with his cane, strike his wife several very quick and smart blows, across her back or shoulders, and the said Jane Prescott had her hands lifted up as if endeavouring to defend herself; that the deponent immediately called out, for God's sake, what are you doing, consider her situation, alluding to her being then with child, and as the

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fact was very sick and ill, in consequence of her situation, upon which he desisted, and turning to Mrs. Ridge upon her coming up, began to apologize to her, for having alarmed and frightened her, but took no notice of the deponent, or his wife, that soon after they all went into the house, and up into the room of the said Isaac and Jane Prescott, where the deponent, knowing the uneasiness of Mrs. Prescott's situation, requested the said Isaac Prescott to permit her to leave the room; which he peremptorily refused, nor could she obtain his permission till she informed him of the distress of her situation, and where she wanted to go. She further says, that they left Kilminster the following morning, and she never saw them together afterwards; that the said Jane Prescott left her husband's house at Teddington, about the 6th of November, on account of his continued ill treatment of her, as the deponent believes, and has never since had any personal intercourse with him whatever; and further she cannot depose.

MARY BOURCHIER.

23d October, 1783.

*The Deposition of Jane MacLaine.*

JANE MACLAINE, wife of Peter MacLaine, gardener, of Northaw, in the county of Hertford, aged twenty-four years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that in August 1782, she went to live in the service of the articulate Isaac Prescott, Esq; her husband, party in this cause, at their house at Teddington, and staid with them about three months, and so came to know and be acquainted with them both: that during such period, she has often heard the said Isaac Prescott very loud, and in violent passions with his wife, when he would swear at her very much, and from the cries which the deponent has heard from the said Jane Prescott at such times, both in the day time as well as at night, she believes the said Isaac Prescott used at such times to beat and otherwise ill treat her, though she cannot say she ever saw him strike her. That during such period the said Jane Prescott was almost always in tears, and in a most dejected low spirited



and melancholy state of mind, owing to as the deponent believes, the continual ill usage she received from her husband; and it was from his violent behaviour and the constant noise and confusion thereby occasioned in the house, that the deponent was induced to quit their service. From the whole she has seen of the behaviour of the said Isaac Prescott, she believes him to be not only of a very violent and passionate, but also of a very barbarous, morose, and cruel temper and disposition.

She further says, she remembers one day after some company, who had dined with them, were gone, she saw the said Isaac and Jane Prescott and Miss Cosens in company together at the gate, that afterwards the said Jane Prescott went up into her own room and was followed by her husband; that soon after the deponent went up stairs to turn the beds down, and going to their chamber door for that purpose, found the door fastened on the inside, and then heard the voice of the said Isaac Prescott extremely loud and passionate, and swearing shockingly, and the noise of many blows given, and the voice of his wife screaming out, and crying very much; that soon after the deponent continuing in the landing place, the

the said Jane Prescott opened the door and ran out in the adjoining chamber, being the chamber of a Mrs. Hutchinson, Isaac Prescott's sister, where her husband immediately followed her, and fastened the door; that the deponent then heard the noise of many blows given, and the said Isaac Prescott loud and passionate, and his wife continuing to scream out; that soon after, as it appeared to the deponent, the said Jane Prescott was thrown down upon the floor; and she then heard her beg of him, for God's sake to desist, and permit her to get up; to which he replied, she might, and he would not strike her again; but nevertheless the deponent immediately afterwards again heard the noise of blows, and of the said Jane Prescott's being again thrown down. That the deponent then went down stairs, and going up again some time afterwards to shut the windows of a spare bed room, she there found the said Jane Prescott lying down on the bed, and in tears, in great agony, pain and grief; and she then complained to the deponent of being very much hurt and bruised, so as to be scarce able to move, and to be unable to sit upright; and she begged of her to call the other maid to her assistance. That the deponent accordingly did so, and they put

put the said Jane Prescott to bed in that room, where she continued so ill, as to be wholly confined for two if not three days, owing entirely, as the deponent believes, to her husband's ill treatment.

She further says, that the said Jane Prescott was in so ill a state of health, particularly with pains in her head, owing, as the deponent believes, to her husband's ill usages, to be unable to get up to breakfast; and on such occasions he would not permit any breakfast to be carried up to her, and would say, if she did not get up and come down to breakfast, she should go without; and once in particular the nursery maid made a basin of her own tea in the kitchen, and carried up to the said Jane Prescott, because her husband would not suffer any to be sent up out of the parlour.

She also deposes, that on the first day of her coming out of her room, after her husband's ill treatment, as before mentioned, she sat most of the day on the landing place, fearing, as the deponent supposes, to go into her husband's company: that between three and four in the afternoon of the same day, the deponent saw him go up stairs, and lock all the  
room



room doors on the first floor, and afterwards in the dusk of the evening she heard a violent noise on the stair-case, and the said Jane Prescott crying out very much, but did not go herself to see what was the matter ; but very soon after, Mrs. Hutchinson's maid came into the kitchen, and said the said Isaac Prescott had been dragging his wife down stairs. She also says, that while she lived with them, the said Jane Prescott had often pains in her head, and complaints, proceeding as she believes principally, if not entirely, from the ill treatment of her husband, but appears to be, in other respects, in a good state of health : and further she cannot depose.

The mark of



JANE MACLAINE.

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*N. B. Mrs. Prescott was divorced from bed, board, and mutual cohabitation with her husband, by reason of cruelty ; and the court has adjudged ninety pounds per annum, to be paid her by Mr. Prescott, during her natural life.*

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